

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 00171 081928Z

44

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 EURE-00 /019 W

----- 021699

P R 081701Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2067

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, US

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN MOSHER ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: A. STATE 001016 B. ANKARA 0082

1. THE EMBASSY HAS SET OUT IN THE PARAGRAPHS BELOW SOME CONSIDERATIONS WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN RESPONDING TO CONGRESSMAN MOSHER'S LETTER (REFTEL A). IN ESSENCE, WE FEEL THAT THE SPECIAL STATE OF POLITICAL TENSION EXISTING IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AT PRESENT IS NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO AMELIORATION BY THE APPROACH SUGGESTED BY THE CONGRESSMAN, I.E. THAT THE USG MIGHT TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN HELPING TO BRING ABOUT A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE NOTE THAT EMBASSY ANKARA IN SUBSTANCE SUPPORTS THE SAME VIEW (REFTEL B).

2. FIRST OF ALL, THE HEALTH--OR DEBILITY--OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS ARE UNIQUELY DEPENDENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. IT IS ONLY WHEN THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IS RELATIVELY TENSION-FREE AND THERE IS NO SECURITY THREAT THAT MEANINGFUL CONTACTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BLOOM BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IN THE INTELLECTUAL FIELD. WE BELIEVE THAT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE MUST IMPROVE FIRST BEFORE IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL INTERCHANGE CAN TAKE PLACE--AND NOT VICE VERSA.

3. ADDITIONALLY, WITH PAST HISTORY AS A GUIDE, AND WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 00171 081928Z

CURRENT PLLITICAL REALITY AS A FOCUS, WE BELIEVE THE SAME

APPROACH IS VALID TODAY. CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN ISSUE HAVE SO POISONED THE AIR BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY THAT IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO BELIEVE THAT CULTURAL CONTACTS COULD TAKE PLACE AND WOULD, IN TURN, LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES. THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH INVECTIVE, MISTRUST, SUSPICION AND PLAIN ILL-WILL GENERATED ON THESE TWO CURRENT PROBLEMS THAT ONLY HARD WORK--ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL--BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES CAN HOPE TO RESTORE NORMALCY TO THEIR RELATIONS.

4. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT AT LEAST A BEGINNING TOWARDS A SERIOUS POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY WAS MADE AT THE RECENT NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS (DECEMBER 12) WHEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS DECIDED TO TAKE STEPS AIMED AT RESUMING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO REDUCE POLITICAL TENSIONS AND SEEK SOLUTIONS TO OUTSTANDING ISSUES. IF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM ARE RESUMED IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE, THIS EVENT IN ITSELF WILL BE A FORWARD STEP TOWARD IMPROVING THE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. COMPARABLE STEPS IN OTHER AREAS OF DISPUTE--AND WE NOTE THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE ABOUT TO BE RESUMED ON THE AIR SPACE ISSUE NEXT WEEK--WILL FURTHER CONTRIBUTE TO THIS TREND.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE POSITIVE TONE STRUCK AT BRUSSELS, THE FORTHCOMING BALKAN CONFERENCE (JANUARY 26) WILL--AS EMBASSY ANKARA NOTED IN REFTEL B--OFFER AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR A DISPLAY OF GOODWILL ON BOTH SIDES. EVEN THOUGH THIS CONFERENCE IS SUBSTANTIALLY TECHNICAL IN NATURE, THE SPILLOVER EFFECT ON OVERALL POLITICAL RELATIONS COULD BE SIGNIFICANT IN THE SENSE OF A FURTHER RELAXATION OF GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS.

6. WE SHARE EMBASSY ANKARA'S CONCERN THAT ANY INITIATIVES WHICH THE USG MIGHT UNDERTAKE IN THIS REGARD COULD BE MISREAD. OUR SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN ENCOURAGING THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS--AND OUR BROADER DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN ENCOURAGING IMPROVEMENT IN GREEK-US AND TURKISH-US RELATIONS--MUST NOT BE PUT IN JEOPARDY THROUGH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 00171 081928Z

COLLATERAL ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT CAST DOUBT OR SUSPICION ON OUR MOTIVES.

7. ACCORDINGLY, GIVEN THE SPECIAL NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS CAUSING TENSION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTSIDERS TO BE HELPFUL ARE LIMITED. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES MUST WRESTLE WITH THEIR DIFFICULTIES IN GOOD FAITH. GETTING THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

ON CYPRUS STARTED AGAIN AS WELL AS RESUMING DISCUSSION ON THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE AND CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUES ARE AT A DELICATE STAGE. ANY OUTSIDE INITIATIVES IN OTHER AREAS OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS COULD WELL HAVE A DISTURBING EFFECT ON THESE SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES.

8. FYI. THE EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER WHO ACCOMPANIED CONGRESSMAN MOSHER ON HIS CALL TO MINISTER TRYPANIS RECALLS THAT IT WAS THE CONGRESSMAN WHO BASICALLY INITIATED THE DISCUSSION OF ARRANGING GREEK-TURKISH CONTACTS AT THE INTELLECTUAL LEVEL AND THAT IT WAS HE WHO SHOWED THE GREATEST ENTHUSIASM FOR THE CONCEPT. WHILE TRYPANIS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE MERITS OF CONGRESSMAN MOSHER'S PRESENTATION, THE CONTROL OFFICER RECOLLECTS THAT TRYPANIS ALSO POINTED TO THE SENSITIVITY OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH IMPOSED A FORMIDABLE BARRIER TO BROADENED CONTACTS. IT WAS NOT THE CONTROL OFFICER'S IMPRESSION THAT TRYPANIS INTENDED TO TAKE ANY SORT OF SPECIFIC OR CONCRETE INITIATIVE ON THE MATTER. THE EMBASSY WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THE CASE WERE OTHERWISE. WHILE TRYPANIS IS A HIGHLY RESPECTED INDIVIDUAL HIS POLITICAL CLOUT IS NOT VERY GREAT, AND HE IS CLEARLY NOT PLAYING ANY ROLE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY AREA OR MORE SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO RELATIONS WITH TURKEY. WE VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD ALLOW TRYPANIS TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE OF THIS TYPE GIVEN THE CURRENT STATUS OF RELATIONS WITH TURKEY.
END FYI.
KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS00171
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760007-0170
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760177/aaaacqoa.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 1016, 76 ANKARA 82
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by izenbel0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN MOSHER ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, US, (MOSHER, CHARLES A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006